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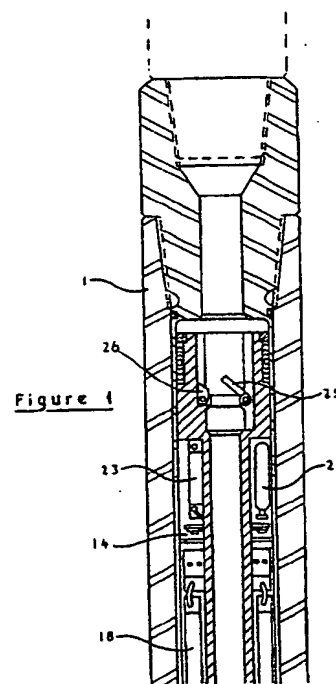
(54) **Downhole drilling tool system.**

(57) In one broad aspect, the invention provides a method of receiving instructions for an implement, for example, a drill string stabilizer, mounted on a drill string, which instructions are transmitted by varying the rate of flow of, or pressure exerted by, the fluid in the bore of the drill string in accordance with one of a plurality of predetermined sequences; the method comprising the steps of:-

- a) monitoring variations in the rate of flow of, or pressure exerted by, the fluid in the drill string;
- b) comparing the sequence of monitored variations with a plurality of predetermined sequences, each predetermined sequence corresponding to a set of instructions for the implement; and
- c) either
 - i) ignoring the variations if they do not correspond to a predetermined sequence, or
 - ii) if the variations do correspond to a predetermined sequence, executing the instructions which correspond to that sequence.

In another broad aspect, the invention provides a drill string stabilizer comprising a mandrel 2, slidably mounted within an outer casing 1; one or more pads 10 movable between a retracted position and one or more extended positions; means monitoring the rate of flow of, or pressure exerted by, the fluid in the drill string in use; and means 25,26 which, when actuated, cause the stabilizer to restrict or prevent the

flow of fluid through it; the arrangement being such that, with the sealing means activated, the exertion of a predetermined amount of pressure by the fluid causes the mandrel to slide within the casing, and the pad or pads to consequently extend.



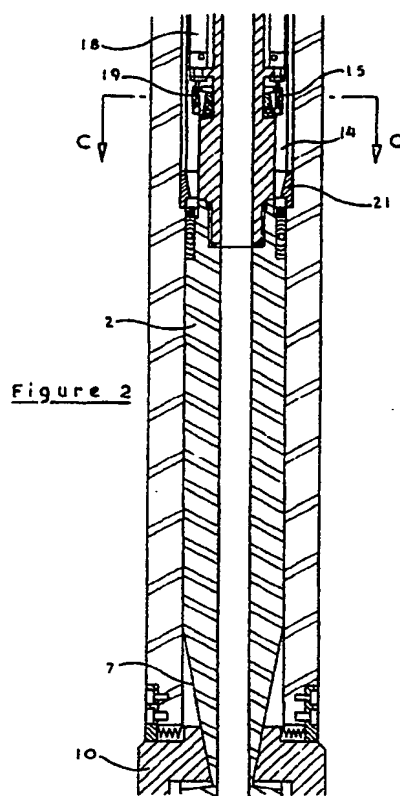


Figure 2

Field of the Invention

The invention relates to drilling implements, for example drill string stabilisers, and more particularly to activating and instructing such implements. Although the invention will be described in relation to a drill string stabiliser, it will be clear that the invention is applicable to other kinds of drilling implements.

Review of the Art known to the Applicant

There are already known several kinds of drill string stabilizer comprising a mandrel, slidably mounted within an outer casing, and a set of pads, which can be extended from or retracted into the outer casing by sliding movement of the mandrel within the outer casing.

Once the stabiliser has been mounted on the drill string and lowered into the well bore, the stabiliser may be activated by extending the pads so that they bear against the well bore. Depending on where, in relation to the drill bit, the stabiliser is situated, this either directly alters the path of the drill bit or causes the weight of the drill string between the stabilizer and the drill bit to alter the course of the drill bit.

In this way, one or more stabilisers mounted on the drill string at one or more strategic points, may be used to control the deviation of the bore hole with respect to the vertical.

Examples of such stabilisers are shown in US patent specifications numbers 4 270 619 (Base), 3 974 886 (Blake Jnr), 3 370 657 (Antle) and 3 123 162 (Rowley). The pads of the stabilisers shown in the two earlier specifications have only one extended position, whilst those shown in the other two specifications can be extended into more than one position.

Various methods are used to remotely actuate these stabilisers, and thus avoid the need to remove the drill string from the well bore every time the pads need to be extended or retracted. These methods involve the use of either a mechanical force exerted on the stabiliser by the drill string, or the pressure exerted by the drilling fluid flowing through the drill string.

Where the pads have more than one extended position, it is necessary to ensure that the pressure exerted by the drilling fluid, or the force exerted on the drilling string is having the required effect on the stabilizer. To that end, the stabiliser shown in the Base specification, number 4 270 619, uses a mechanically pre-programmed actuating member.

Once the actuating member has been programmed to extend or retract the pads into their required position, it is lowered on a wire down the drill string until it bears against and consequently

seals, the mandrel of the stabilizer. Drilling fluid is then pumped down the drill string, causing the mandrel to slide along the stabilizer casing.

A pawl mounted on the mandrel co-operates with a rack mounted on the casing to maintain the position of the mandrel relative to the casing (and therefore the position of the pads) once the actuating member has been removed. The actuating member either advances the pawl along the rack to extend the pads into the required position, or disengages the pawl from the rack, causing the pads to retract once fluid pressure has been removed.

The disadvantages of this arrangement are twofold: Firstly, the drilling operation has to be suspended while the actuating member is being lowered down the drill string; secondly, the actuator can only be pre-programmed to perform one task on one stabilizer so that, if more than one stabilizer is to be actuated, the task must be repeated for each stabilizer.

Other proposals for drill string stabilisers have been made, but to the best of the applicant's knowledge, these fail to provide the reliability and accuracy which the present invention seeks to achieve.

Summary of the Invention

In one broad aspect, the invention provides a method of receiving instructions for an implement, for example, a drill string stabilizer, mounted on a drill string, which instructions are transmitted by varying the rate of flow of, or pressure exerted by, the fluid in the bore of the drill string in accordance with one of a plurality of predetermined sequences; the method comprising the steps of: -

- a) monitoring variations in the rate of flow of, or pressure exerted by, the fluid in the drill string;
- b) comparing the sequence of monitored variations with a plurality of predetermined sequences, each predetermined sequence corresponding to a set of instructions for the implement; and
- c) either

- i) ignoring the variations if they do not correspond to a predetermined sequence, or
- ii) if the variations do correspond to a predetermined sequence, executing the instructions which correspond to that sequence.

The implement preferably includes a conduit through which drilling fluid may flow and means which, when activated, so seal the implement as to restrict or prevent the flow of drilling fluid through the implement. In this case, each set of instructions for the implement preferably includes the step of maintaining the sealing means in an activated condition for a period of time distinctive of those instructions.

This period of time can be measured by monitoring the pressure of the fluid in the drill string. In this way, the implement provides confirmation, or otherwise, that the required set of instructions have been executed.

In another broad aspect, the invention provides a drill string stabilizer comprising a mandrel, slidably mounted within an outer casing; one or more pads movable between a retracted position and one or more extended positions; means monitoring the rate of flow of, or pressure exerted by, the fluid in the drill string in use; and means which, when activated, seal the stabilizer to restrict or prevent the flow of fluid through it; the arrangement being such that, with the sealing means activated, the exertion of a predetermined amount of pressure by the fluid causes the mandrel to slide within the casing, and the pad or pads to consequently extend.

Preferably the stabilizer includes means maintaining the pad or pads in one of a plurality of extended positions; the maintaining means comprising a set of dogs; each of which is pivotally mounted on the mandrel or casing at a position corresponding to one of the extended pad positions; and each dog, in use, being extended in response to a selected instruction, to so engage a surface of the casing or mandrel as to prevent the sliding of the mandrel in at least one direction along the casing.

The stabilizer may be instructed by the method which also forms part of the invention.

In another broad aspect, the invention provides apparatus for receiving instructions for an implement, for example a drill string stabilizer, mounted on a drill string, which instructions are transmitted by varying the rate of flow of, or pressure exerted by, the fluid in the bore of the drill string in accordance with one of a plurality of predetermined sequences; the apparatus comprising:-

- a) means monitoring variations in the rate of flow of, or pressure exerted by, the fluid in the drill string; and
- b) means comparing the monitored variations with a plurality of predetermined sequences, each predetermined sequence corresponding to a set of instructions for the implement; which comparing means either:
 - i) ignores the monitored variations if they do not correspond to a predetermined sequence, or
 - ii) if the variations do correspond to a predetermined sequence, execute the instructions which correspond to that sequence.

The monitoring means may include a paddle, pivotally mounted on the implement. The sealing means may comprise the paddle and a paddle stop, which is movable between a retracted and a

protruding position; the sealing means being activated by moving the paddle stop into its protruding position.

The invention, when used in relation to a drill string stabilizer, provides a relatively simple, quick and efficient way of instructing one or more stabilisers on the drill string.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention will now be described, by way of example only, and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a sectional view of the upper part of a stabilizer embodying an aspect of the invention.

Figures 2 and 3 are sectional views respectively of the middle and lower portions of that stabilizer.

Figure 4 is a sectional view along the line C - C on Figure 2.

Figure 5 is an expanded view of a part of the stabilizer shown in Figure 2.

Figure 6 is a sectional view of the pads mounted on the casing and mandrel of a three-pad version of the stabilizer.

Figure 7 is a sectional view along the line A - A of Figure 3.

Figure 8 is a side view of one of the pads of the stabilizer.

Figure 9 is an end view of the pad.

Figure 10 is a view of the underside of the pad.

Figure 11 is a detailed view of part of the stabilizer shown in Figure 1.

Figure 12 is an end view of the component shown in Figure 11.

Figures 13 to 18 show the flow chart of the programme used by the computer which controls the stabilizer.

The listing of an example of the machine code programme which may be used by the computer is scheduled to this specification, and is referenced Figure 20 ; with Figure 21 an alternative to Figure 1.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Referring to Figures 1, 2 and 3, a drill string stabilizer comprises an outer casing 1 having a central bore along its length, and in which a mandrel 2 is slidably mounted. The bore of the casing narrows in its lower region to form an upward facing shoulder 3, against which the bottom of a compression spring 4 bears via a spring retainer ring 5. The top of the compression spring 4 bears against a flange 6 on the mandrel 2, thus exerting an upward biasing force on the mandrel 2.

The outer surface of the mandrel 2 incorporates a number of tracks 7. Each track 7 comprises

a central recess 8 (Figure 7), which is situated between two parallel ridges 9.

Each track 7 forms a camming surface, which is engaged by the underside of a pad 10. As can be seen in Figures 8 to 10, the shape of the underside of the pad 10 at its end regions complements the shape of the tracks 7.

The number of tracks present on the mandrel 2 is, therefore, the same as the number of pads 10 present on the stabilizer. The stabilizer shown in Figures 1 to 3 has two pairs of pads 10, one pair being situated slightly above the other, and the four pads being situated at 90° intervals around the casing 1.

Alternatively, three pads 10 can be used, in which case the pads are situated at the same height, and at 120° intervals around, the casing 1 (Figure 6).

Each pad 10 is located in a hole in the casing 1, and has a retaining surface 11 incorporated into each end. Each surface 11 engages the inner end of a compression spring 12. The opposite end of the spring 12 bears against a pad retaining member 13.

The relative positions of the surfaces 11, the retainer members 13 and the periphery of the hole in the casing 1 are such that each pad 10 is constrained to move only in a radial direction (relative to the casing 1) when the mandrel 2 slides along the casing 1, and that each pad 10 is biased into a retracted position by the combined actions of its associated springs 12 and retaining members 13.

The upper end of the mandrel 2 has a region of reduced outer radius which, together with the inner walls of the casing 1, defines an annular actuation chamber 14.

The actuation chamber 14 houses three pairs of dogs 15, which are pivotally mounted with respect to the mandrel 2 at varying heights.

Figure 5 shows one of these dogs, which is pivotally mounted in a recess (shown in Figure 4), via a pivot pin 16. Referring to Figure 4, the six dogs 15 are mounted at 60° intervals about the mandrel 2.

Each dog 15 is connected to a pneumatic actuation cylinder 18 via a connecting rod 19. Each connecting rod 19 is pivoted at its lower end to its corresponding dog 15 in a groove 20 in the outer face of the dog 15. The groove 20 is so inclined that, when the cylinder 18 is operated to vertically raise or lower the connecting rod 19, the corresponding dog 15 pivots between the position shown in solid and broken lines in Figure 5.

The canister 14 also contains an annular mandrel stop 21 which, in use, engages an extended pair of dogs to prevent upward movement of the

Each pneumatic cylinder 18 is powered by a compressed air source 22, and is controlled by a set of solenoid valves (not shown). The solenoid valves are, in turn, controlled by a digital computer 23.

The computer 23 is also connected to a sensor switch 24 which is so arranged as to provide a binary 1 (or on) signal when the switch 24 is closed, and a binary 0 (or off) signal when the switch 24 is open.

The switch 24 is situated next to the central bore (or conduit) of the mandrel 2, and just downstream of a paddle 25. The paddle 25 is pivotally mounted in a recess in the mandrel bore, and with no fluid flow down the mandrel, is spring-biased into the position shown in Figure 11. The paddle 25 is so sized and shaped that, when in a horizontal position, it fits closely within the mandrel bore, but that it is capable of pivoting beneath the horizontal until its underside bears against, and thus closes, the switch 24. A sufficiently rapid flow of drilling fluid through the mandrel will thus result in the switch 24 providing the computer 23 with a binary 1 signal.

A pneumatically actuated paddle stop 26 is pivotally mounted in the bore of the mandrel 2, and opposite the paddle 25. The paddle stop 26 is controlled by the computer 23, and may be pivoted between a retracted position (Figure 11), and a protruding position (Figure 12). When the paddle stop 26 is in its retracted position, it does not interfere with the movement of the paddle 25, but when it is extended into its protruding position, the paddle stop 26 prevents the paddle 25 from pivoting below the horizontal. The bore of the mandrel 2 can thus be sealed by pivoting the paddle stop 26 into a protruding position beneath the paddle 25, and causing the drilling fluid to exert a downward force on the paddle 25 to force it against the paddle stop 26.

The computer 23 is also connected to a second microswitch (not shown), which is so mounted on or near the shoulder 3 as to be closed by the mandrel 2 when it reaches the limit of its downward movement. The diagram entitled MONITORING SEQUENCE forms part of this specification, and illustrates one way in which the computer 23 can compare the output of the switch 24, and thus the variations in the fluid flow through the drill string, with the predetermined sequences corresponding to instructions for the stabilizer.

The monitoring sequence is divided into a number of phases: activation; log on; data input; and, after an actuation period during which the transmitted instructions are executed, verification.

The purpose of the activation phase is to initiate the monitoring sequence, and to ensure that the computer is at the beginning of the log on

phase. The output of the switch 24 is initially monitored by a low power circuit, which activates the computer if no fluid flow is detected (i.e. the switch 24 remains open) for a period of thirty seconds. On activation, the computer monitors the output of the switch 24 for a first period of ten seconds; if fluid flow is detected during this first period, then the computer will shut down, activating the low power circuit. The computer will also do this if fluid flow is detected for more than twenty seconds. The activation phase, therefore, consists of an initial thirty-second period of fluid flow, which ensures that the computer is shut down, followed by a no-flow period of forty seconds, which causes the low power circuit to activate the computer and the computer to initiate the log on phase. The sequence of fluid flow variations conforming with the activation phase may have been generated during, for example, the addition of a section to the top of the drill string, and not for the purposes of instructing the stabilizer.

The computer, therefore, uses the log on phase to determine whether or not the stabiliser is being instructed. The log on phase consists of alternating ten second periods of "flow" and "no flow". As can be seen from the diagram, the first period is a "flow" period.

During each of the "flow" periods, fluid flow must be detected at least once, whilst no fluid flow must be detected during any of the "no flow" periods. If, for example, no fluid flow is detected in the first period, or fluid flow is detected during the second period, the computer will shut down. In this way the computer distinguishes between a transmitted set of instructions, and random fluctuations in the fluid flow.

Although the diagram shows a log on phase having eight periods, more or less periods may be used depending on the extent of the random fluctuations of the fluid flow. If the fluid flow conforms to the log on sequence, the computer enters into the data input phase.

During the data input phase, the computer periodically samples the state of the switch 24 at predetermined points in time. As can be seen from the diagram, there is a series of alternating "flow" and "no flow" sampling points. If flow is detected at a "no flow" sampling point (e.g. 1.40), then the computer will shut down. However, if no flow is detected at a "flow" sampling point, the computer will store that result as a binary 0, whilst any flow detected at a "flow" sampling point will be recorded as a binary 1. On completion of the data input phase the computer will, therefore, have generated a binary number.

This binary number represents the instructions which have been sent to the stabiliser. The data input phase shown in the diagram enables a four-

digit binary number to be transmitted, but larger numbers can be sent if the data input phase is lengthened.

The instructions represented by the binary signal are executed during the actuation period. If, for example, the instructions were to fully extend the pads, then the following sequence of events would occur:

Firstly, the computer will move the paddle stop 26 into its protruding position. Since this happens at the end of the data input phase, there is no fluid flow and the paddle 25 is consequently in the position shown in Figure 11. When fluid begins to flow down the drill string, the paddle 25 will bear against the stop 26, sealing the mandrel 2. As the pressure exerted by the fluid above the mandrel 2 increases, the mandrel 2 is forced down against the action of the spring 4, causing the pads 10 to extend. This continues until the second sensor switch is closed.

The computer then extends the highest pair of dogs; fluid pressure is then removed, causing the mandrel to move back up the casing 1 until the highest dogs engage the mandrel stop 21.

If the second sensor switch is not closed at the end of the actuation phase, the computer will ignore the instructions, and transmit an error signal in the verification phase.

During the verification phase, the computer maintains the paddle stop 26 in a protruding position for a time distinctive of the status of the stabilizer.

Thus, by measuring the pressure of the drilling fluid at certain intervals of time, the operator can obtain confirmation that the transmitted instructions have been executed. An example of the range of delays is ten seconds if the upper pair of dogs are extended, twenty seconds if the middle pair are extended, thirty seconds if the lower pair are extended, forty seconds if none of the dogs are extended and a sixty second error signal.

It is also possible to instruct the stabiliser to "report" its current "status" by passing straight into the verification phase, without extending or retracting any of the dogs.

This delay period can be ascertained by periodically applying and measuring fluid pressure in the drill string. When a reduced pressure is measured, the operator knows that the paddle stop 26 is in its retracted position. It will be appreciated that the paddle stop 26 cannot be retracted when fluid pressure is being applied.

Instead of a paddle 25, a paddle wheel may be used. As an alternative to the pneumatic cylinders 18, and the pneumatic actuation means for the paddle stop 26, sets of Servo motors may be used.

In this case, the paddle stop 26 is linked to the drive shaft of such a motor, whilst the motors for

the dogs 15 impart linear movement to the connecting rods 19 via a rack-and-pinion system.

It will be appreciated that the motors acting in combination with their associated power sources act as electronic actuators.

Figure 21 shows a variation of the drill string stabiliser shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3, the portions shown in Figures 2 and 3 being essentially unchanged, but the uppermost portion having a different data exchange arrangement. The lowermost part of Figure 21 corresponds to upper end of the mandrel 2 in Figure 1, just above the compressed air source 22 and the computer 23. A mandrel extension 30 has a reduced diameter so as to leave an annular bypass chamber 31 therearound. The bypass chamber 31 is connected at its lower end with the through chamber of the mandrel via a plurality of vents 32 therethrough. At the upper end, the mandrel extension 30 has a top portion 33 which engages the inner wall of the outer casing 1 and which has a plurality of vents 34 permitting fluid communication between the bypass chamber 31 and the upper part of the bore of the casing 1, as hereinafter described.

A piston 35 is slidably mounted in the upper part of the mandrel extension 30 and has a head portion 36 which slides across the vents 34 partially or fully opening them to flow, depending on the position of the piston. A helical compression spring 37 serves to urge the piston upwardly. The spring 37 is seated in a cup 38 located between a pivoted pair of dogs 39. The dogs 39 are acted upon by a push rod 40 via a helical spring 41. The action of the cup 38 on the dogs 39 is to urge the dogs to an inner position as shown in Figure 21, wherein they serve as a stop limiting downward travel of the piston so that it partially obscures the vents 34. The push rod 40, driven by an electric servo motor 42, causes the dogs to pivot outwardly, thus permitting the piston 35 to travel further downwards, clear of the vents 34. The servo motor 42 is controlled by the computer 23 (Figure 1).

In use, the piston 35, held up by the spring 37, presents a resistance to flow of the drilling fluid. The fluid forces the piston downwardly to open the vents 34 and so flow into the annular bypass chamber 31. The dogs 39 prevent the piston 35 from opening the vents 34 fully, and so the resultant pressure in the fluid can be detected at the surface. Actuation by the computer 23 of the servo motor 42 to move the push rod 40 upwardly urges the dogs 39 outwardly, releasing the piston 35 to travel a further distance downwards, opening the vents 34 fully and causing a drop in the drilling fluid pressure detected at the surface. Signalling to the surface can thus be carried out by allowing the

timed sequence.

To receive information, fluid flow may be detected by a sensor directly at the piston or sensor mounted so as to detect the movement of the entire device against a spring, as would occur due to the inherent resistance of the entire device to the fluid. The sensor may conveniently comprise a switch (not shown) actuated by the piston 35 as it travels downwards due to an increase in fluid pressure sent from the surface and released when the piston 35 travels upwards due to a decrease in fluid pressure.

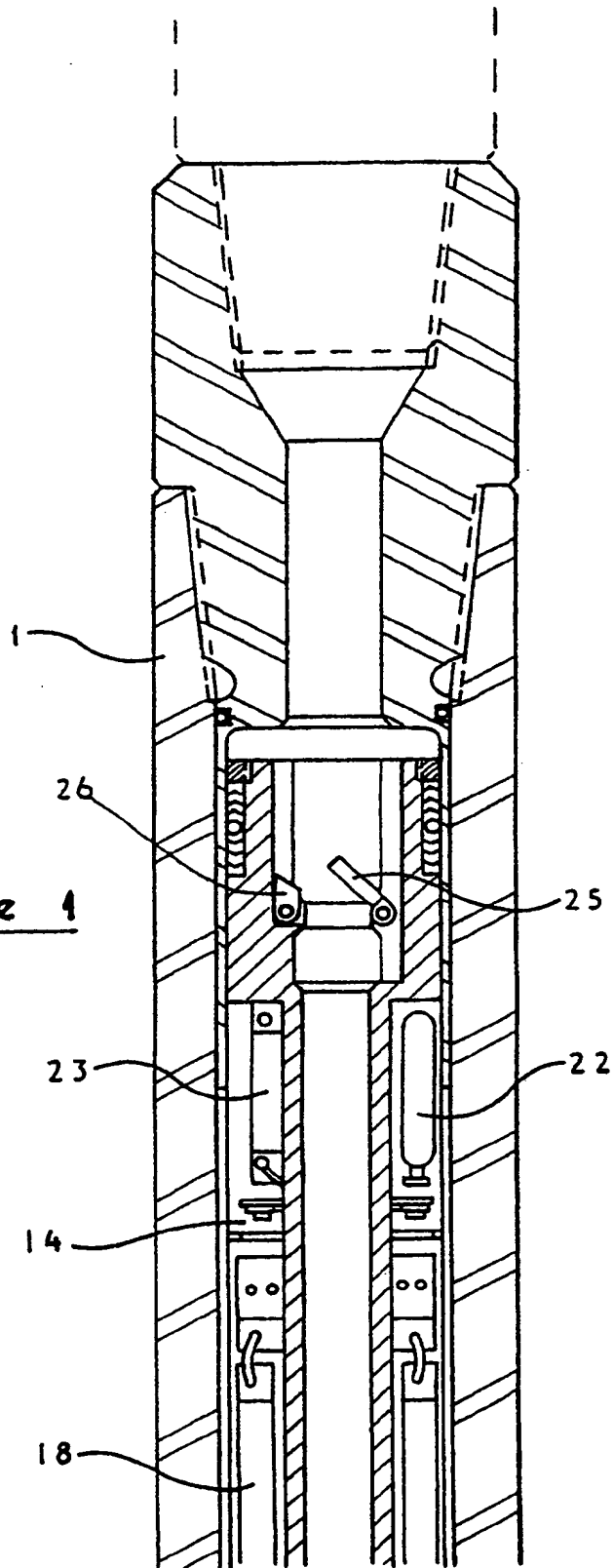
In the partially restricted position of the vents 34, the pressure is sufficient to drive the mandrel 2 downwards as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 1, 2 and 3 to cause the pads to move outwardly to hold the stabiliser in position.

Claims

1. A method of receiving instructions for an implement, for example, a drill string stabilizer, mounted on a drill string, which instructions are transmitted by varying the rate of flow of, or pressure exerted by, the fluid in the bore of the drill string in accordance with one of a plurality of predetermined sequences; the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) monitoring variations in the rate of flow of or pressure exerted by the fluid in the drill string;
 - (b) comparing the sequence of monitored variations with a plurality of predetermined sequences, each predetermined sequence corresponding to a set of instructions for the implement, and
 - (c) either
 - (i) ignoring the variations if they do not correspond to a predetermined sequence, or
 - (ii) if the variations do correspond to a predetermined sequence, executing the instructions which correspond to that sequence.
2. A method according to claim 1, in which the implement includes a conduit through which drilling fluid may flow and means which, when activated, so seal the implement as to restrict or prevent the flow of drilling fluid through the implement.
3. A method according to claim 2, in which each set of instructions for the implement includes the step of maintaining the sealing means in an activated condition for a period of time distinctive of those instructions or of the status of the implement.

4. A drill string stabilizer comprising a mandrel, slideably mounted within an outer casing; one or more pads movable between a retracted position and one or more extended positions; means monitoring the rate of flow of or pressure exerted by the fluid in the drill string, in use; and means which, when activated, seal the stabiliser to restrict or prevent the flow of fluid through it; the arrangement being such that, with the sealing means activated, the exertion of a predetermined amount of pressure by the fluid causes the mandrel to slide within the casing, and the pad or pads to consequently extend.
5. A stabilizer according to claim 4 including means maintaining the pad or pads in one of a plurality of extended positions; the maintaining means comprising a set of dogs; each of which is pivotally mounted on the mandrel or the casing at a position corresponding to one of the extended pad positions; and each dog, in use, being extended, in response to a selected instruction, to so engage a surface of the casing or mandrel as to prevent the sliding of the mandrel in at least one direction along the casing.
6. A method according to any of claims 1 to 3 when carried out using an implement comprising a stabilizer in accordance with either of claims 4 and 5.
7. Apparatus for receiving instructions for an implement, for example a drill string stabilizer, mounted on a drill string, which instructions are transmitted by varying the rate of flow of, or pressure exerted by, the fluid in the bore of the drill string in accordance with one of a plurality of predetermined sequences; the apparatus comprising:-
- (a) means monitoring variations in the rate of flow of, or pressure exerted by, the fluid in the drill string, and
 - (b) means comparing the monitored variations with a plurality of predetermined sequences, each predetermined sequence corresponding to a set of instructions for the implement; which comparing means either:
 - i) ignore the monitored variations if they do not correspond to a predetermined sequence, or
 - ii) if the monitored variations do correspond to a predetermined sequence, execute the instructions which correspond to that sequence.
8. Apparatus according to Claim 7 in which the monitoring means comprise a paddle, pivotally mounted on the implement.
9. Apparatus according to Claim 8 and including sealing means which, when activated, so seal the implement as to restrict or prevent the flow of drilling fluid through the implement.
10. Apparatus according to Claim 9 in which the sealing means comprise the paddle and a paddle stop, which is movable between a retracted and a protruding position; the sealing means being activated by moving the paddle stop into its protruding position.
11. Apparatus according to Claim 7, in which the monitoring means comprise a piston movable by the pressure exerted by the fluid in the drill string against the force of a spring.
12. Apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the piston is movable between a first position, wherein flow of drilling fluid through the implement is restricted and a second position, wherein the piston offers no restriction to the flow of drilling fluid through the implement.

Figure 4



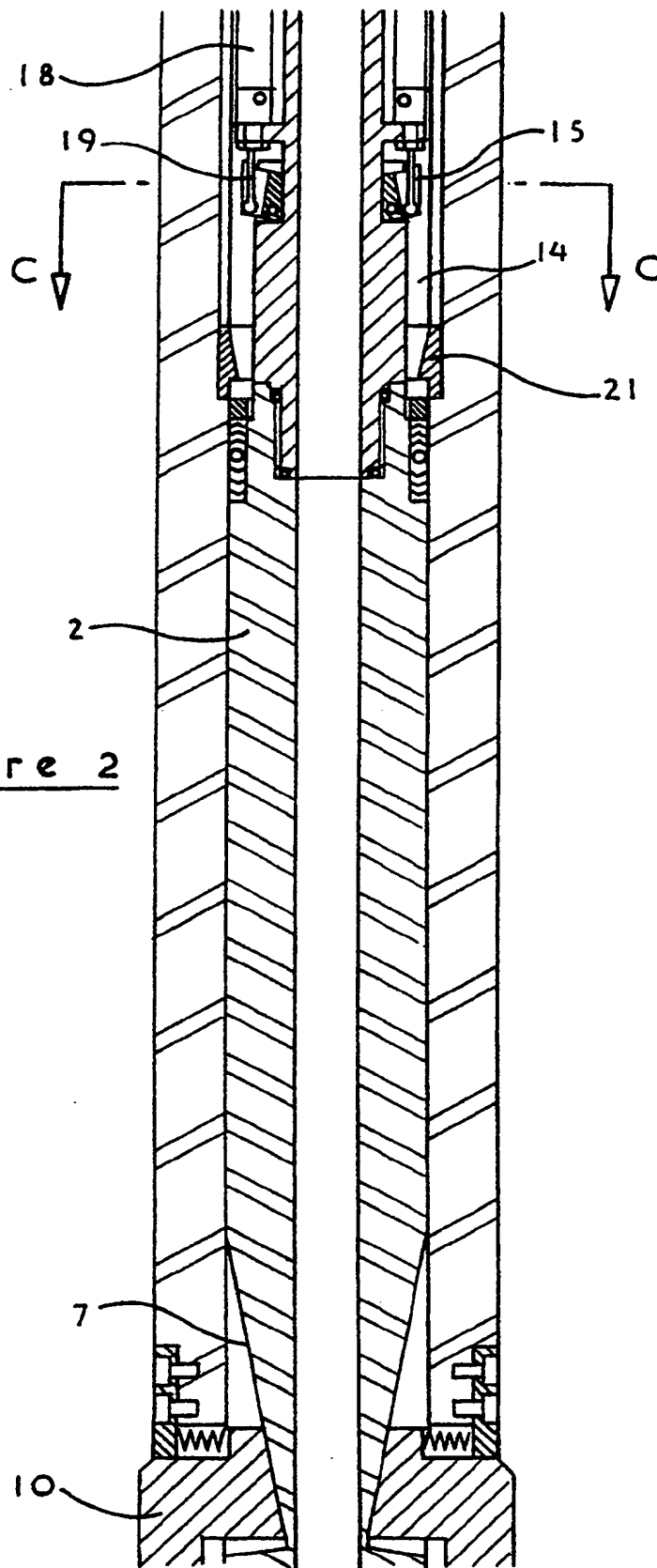
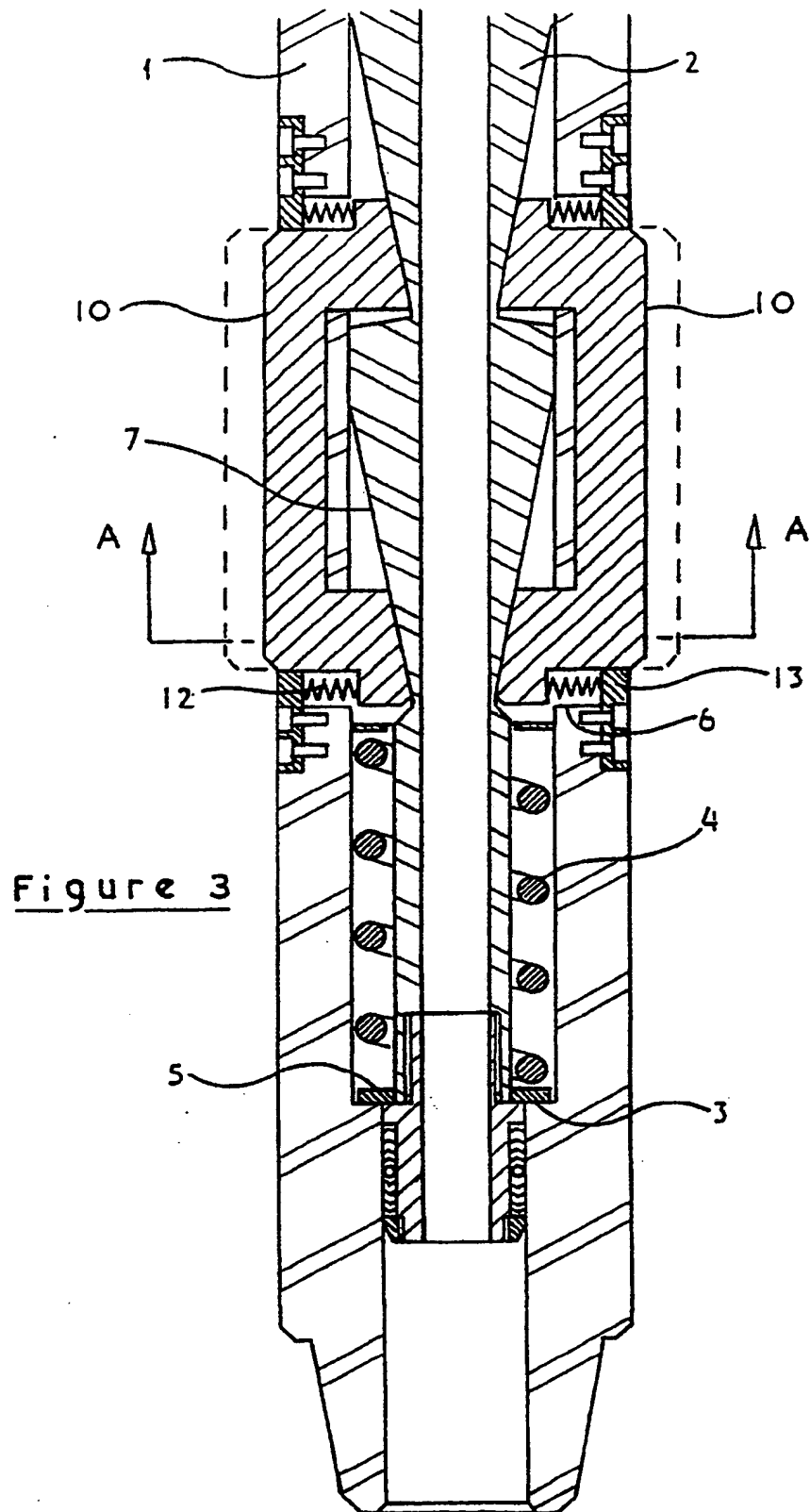
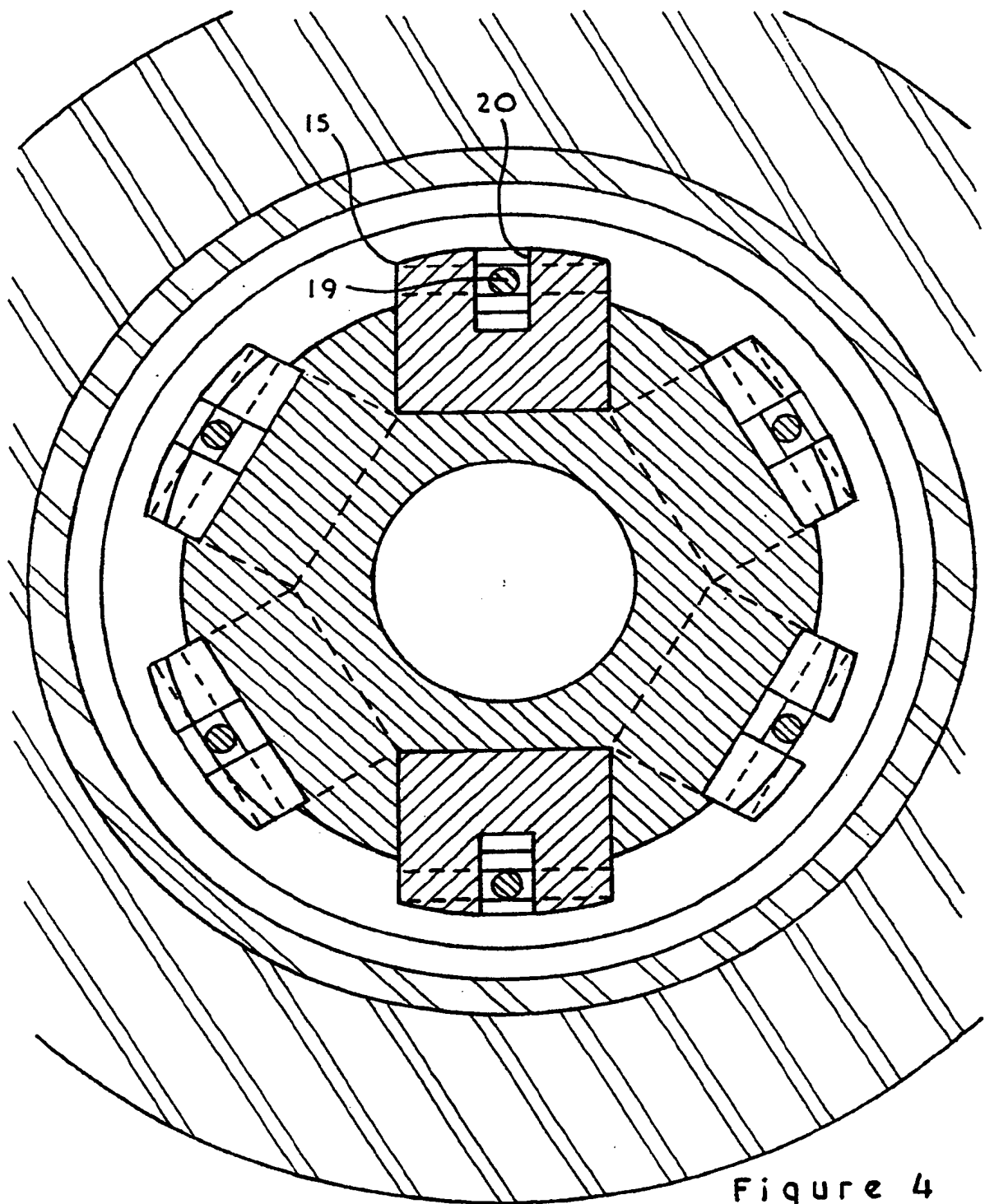


Figure 2



Figure 4

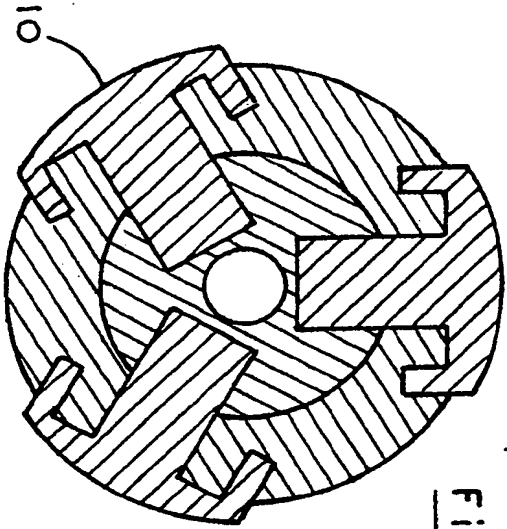


Figure 6

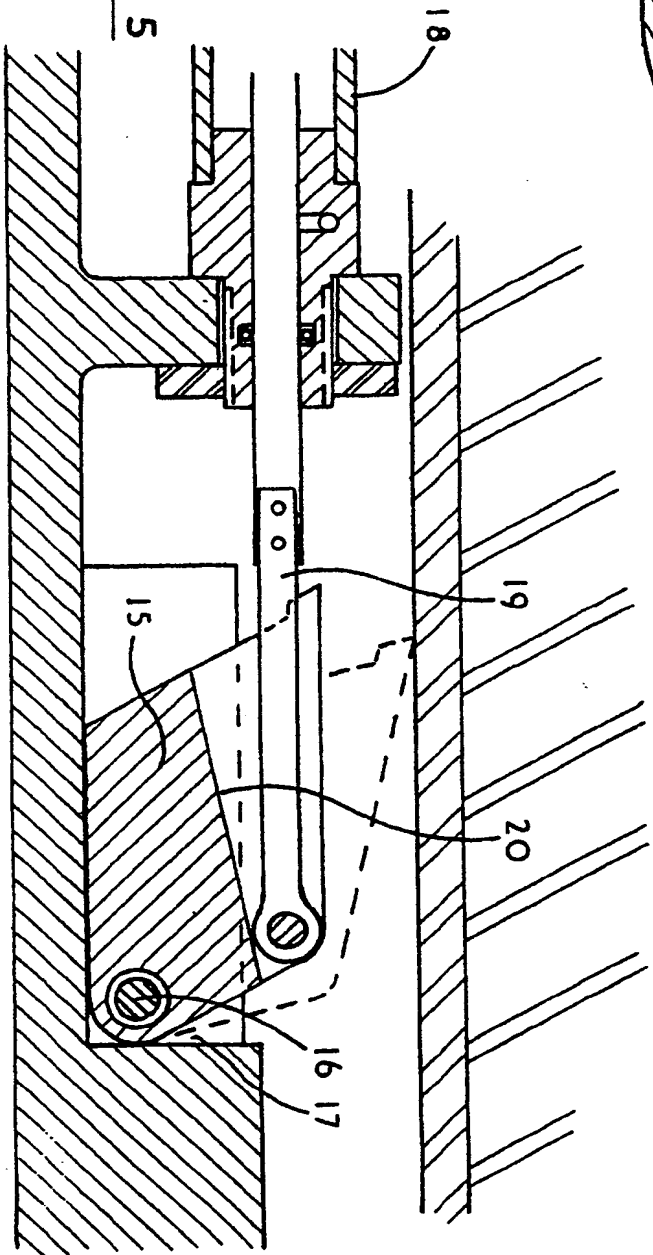


Figure 5

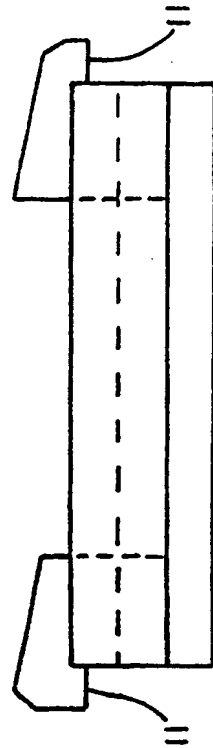


Figure 8

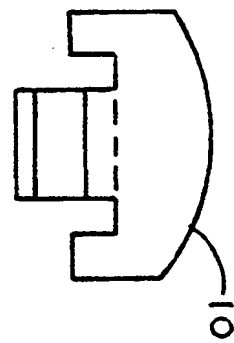


Figure 9

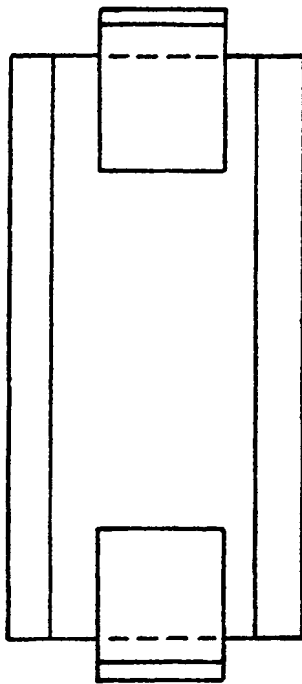


Figure 10

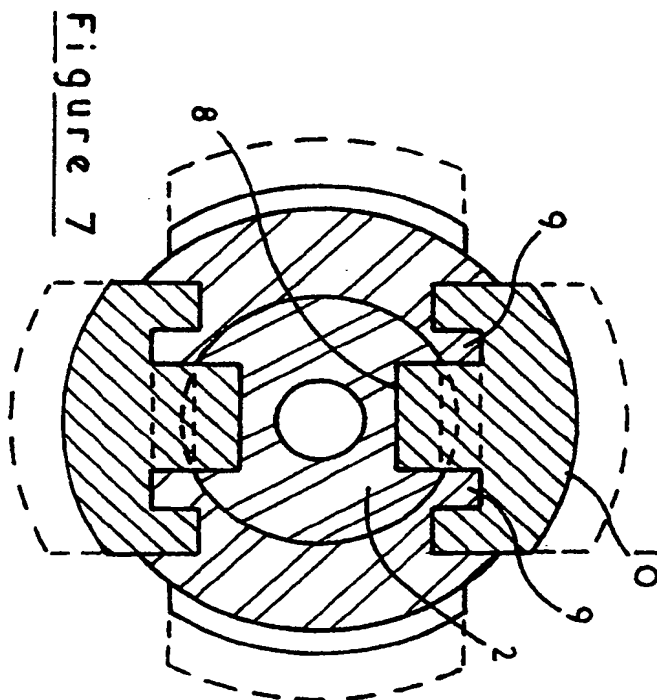


Figure 7

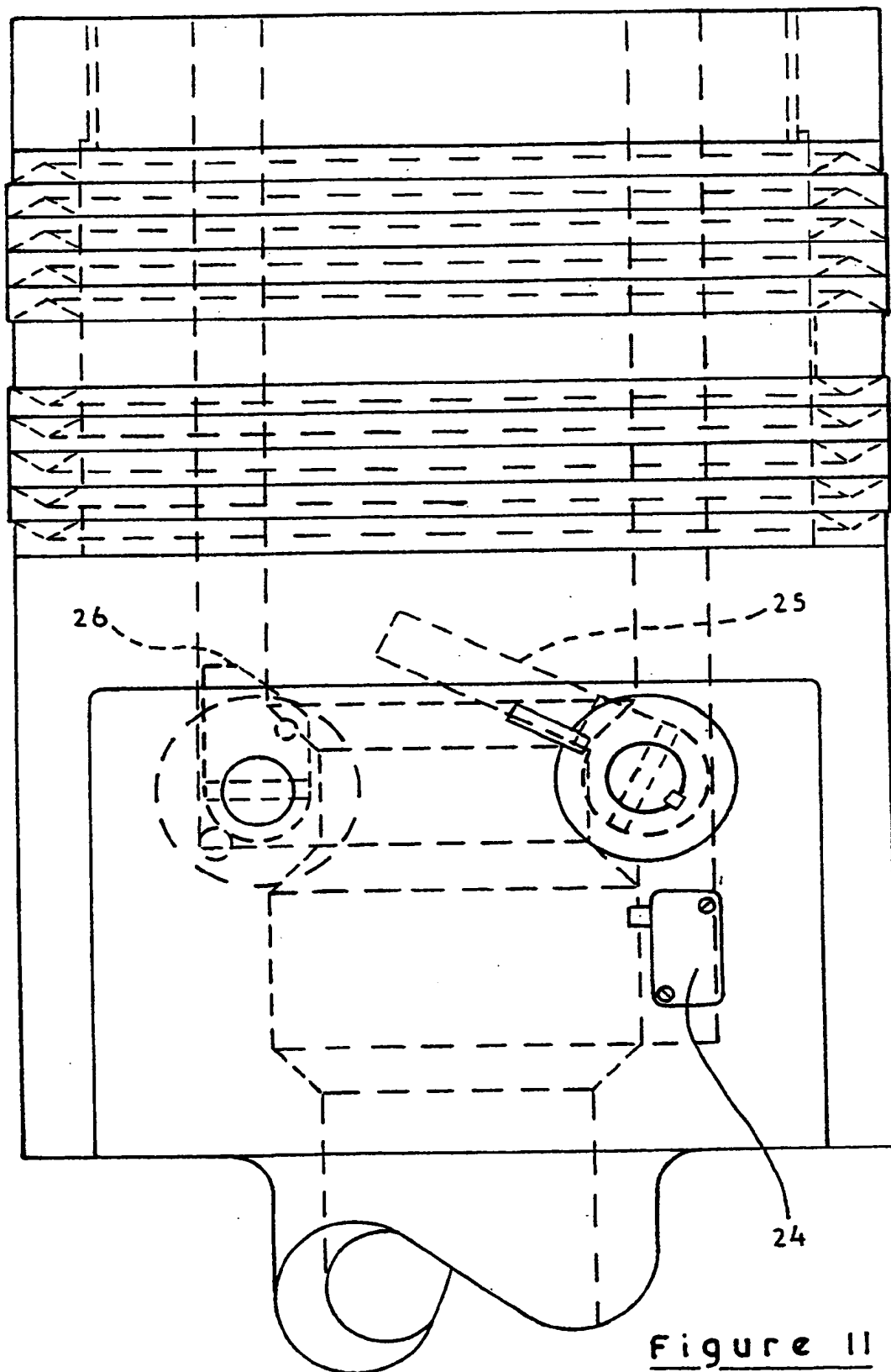


Figure 11

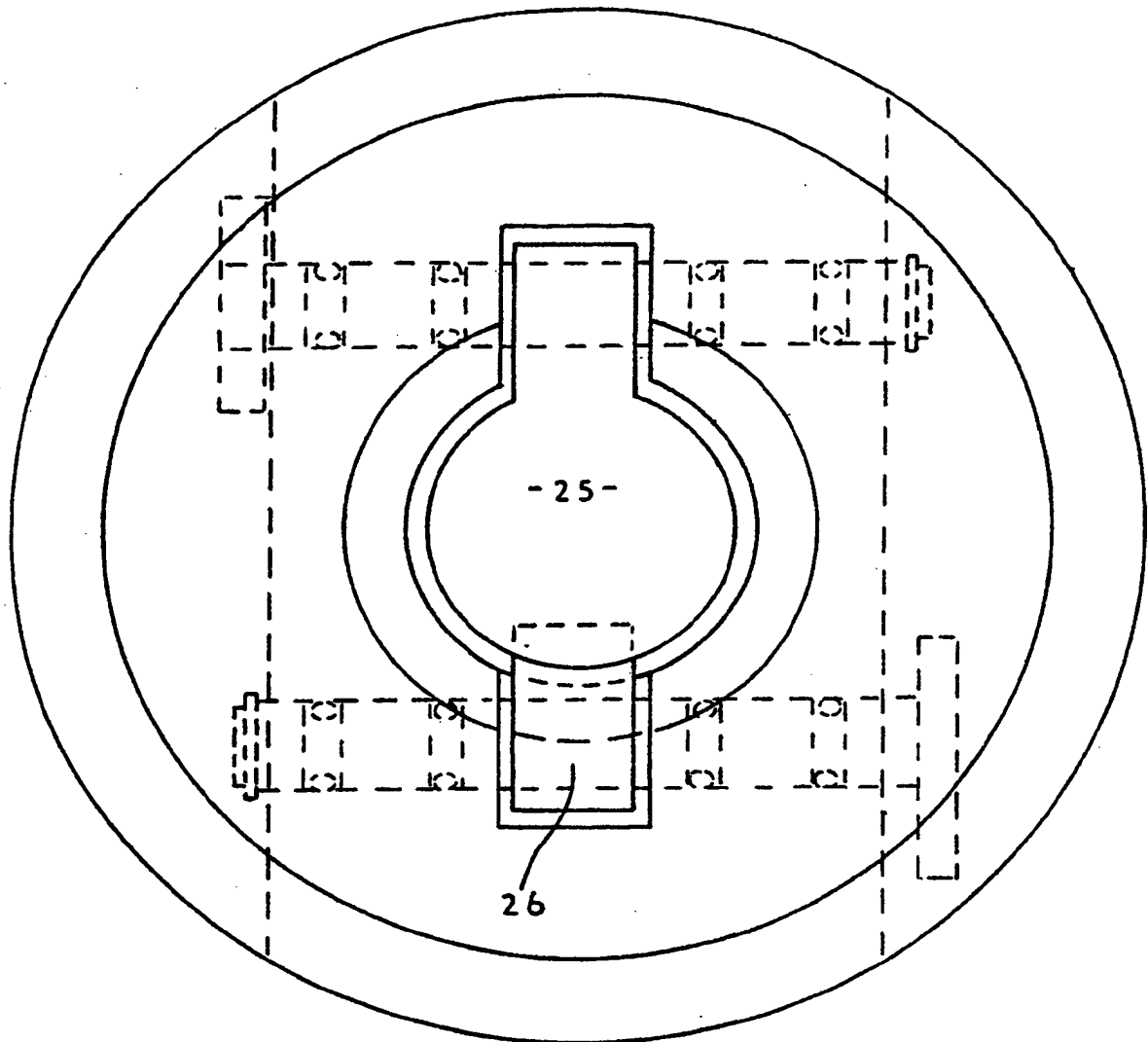
Figure 12

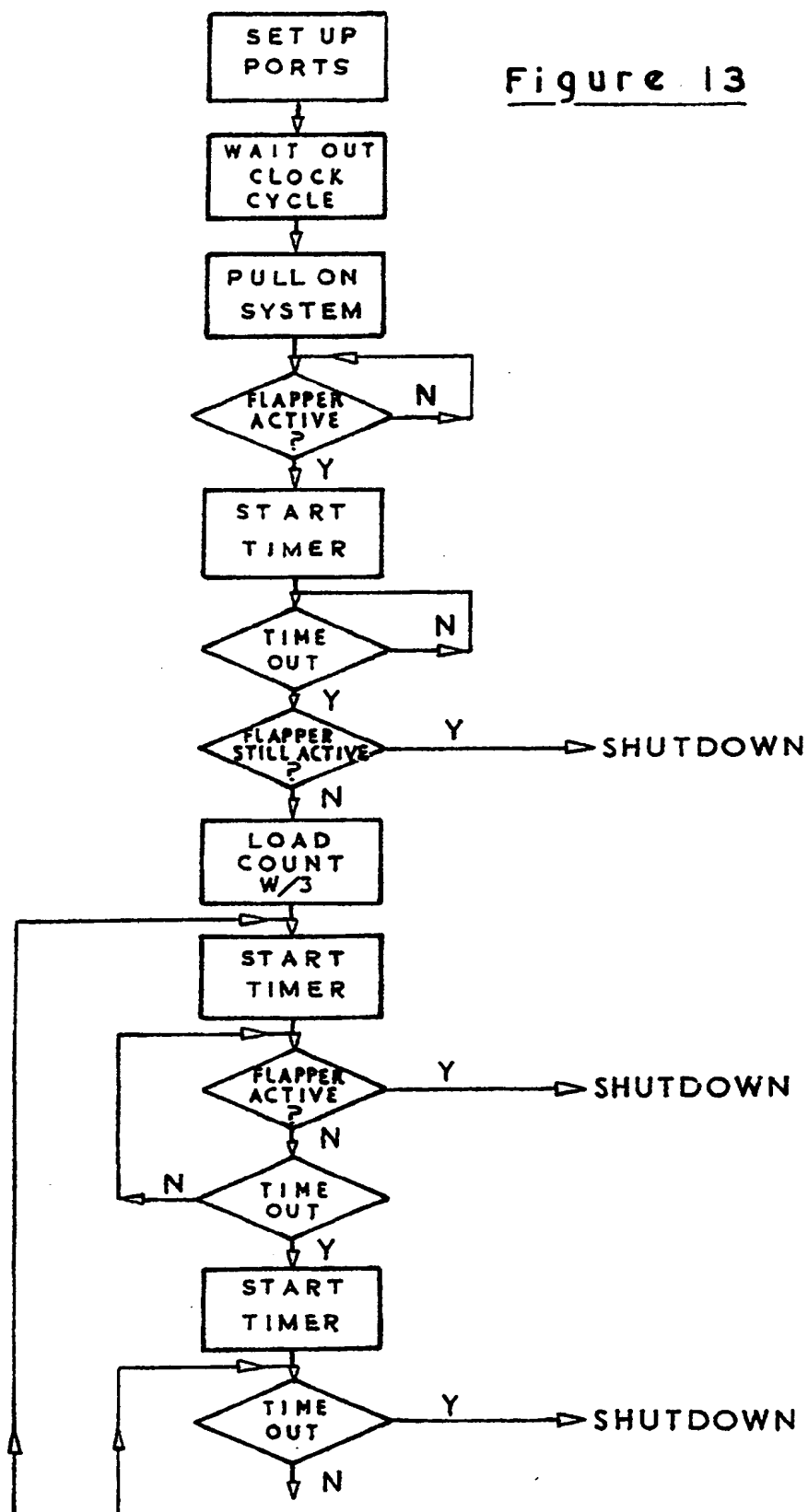
Figure 13

Figure 14

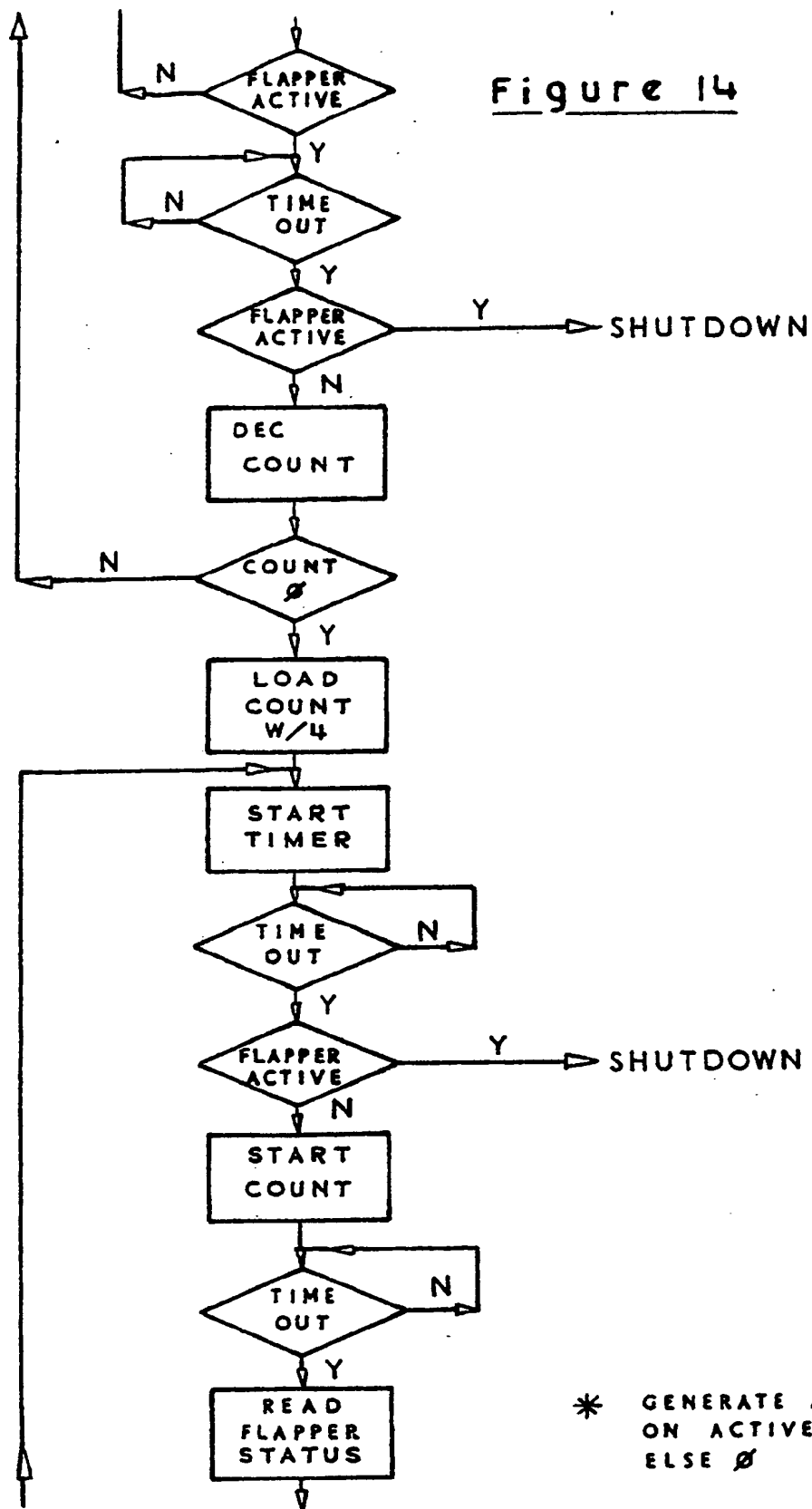


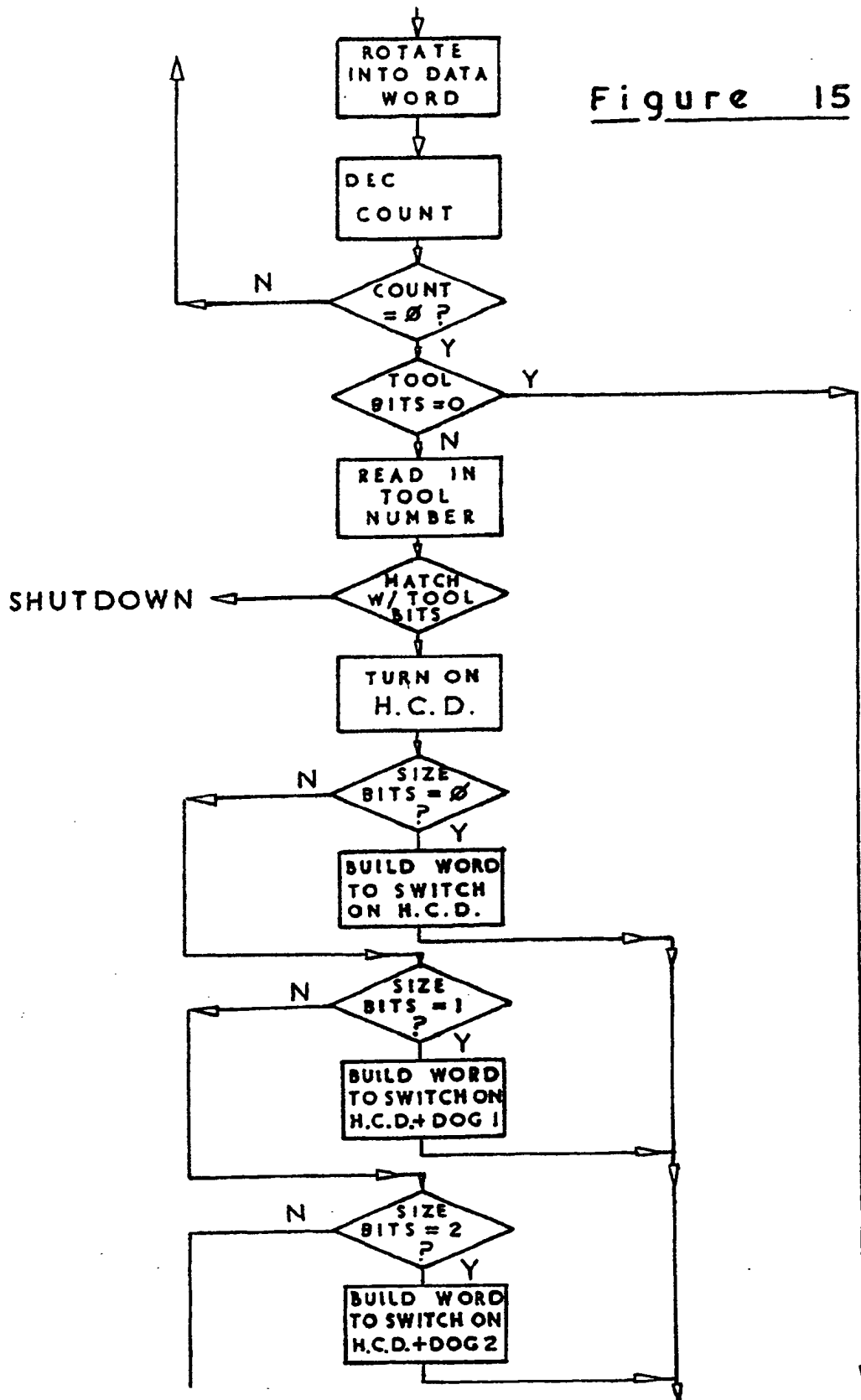
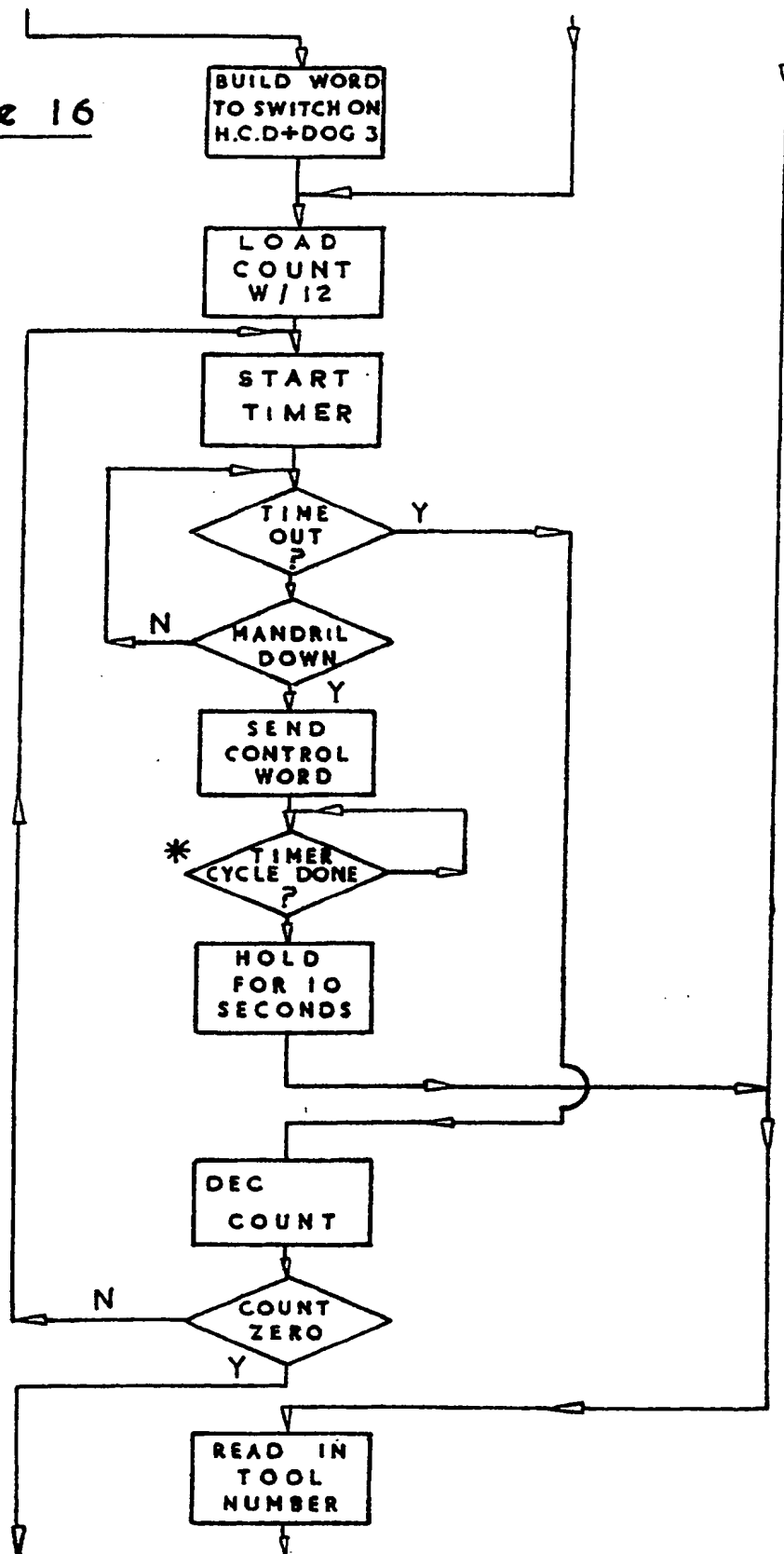
Figure 15

Figure 16

*
TIMER SHOULD
BE RESTARTED
INSTEAD



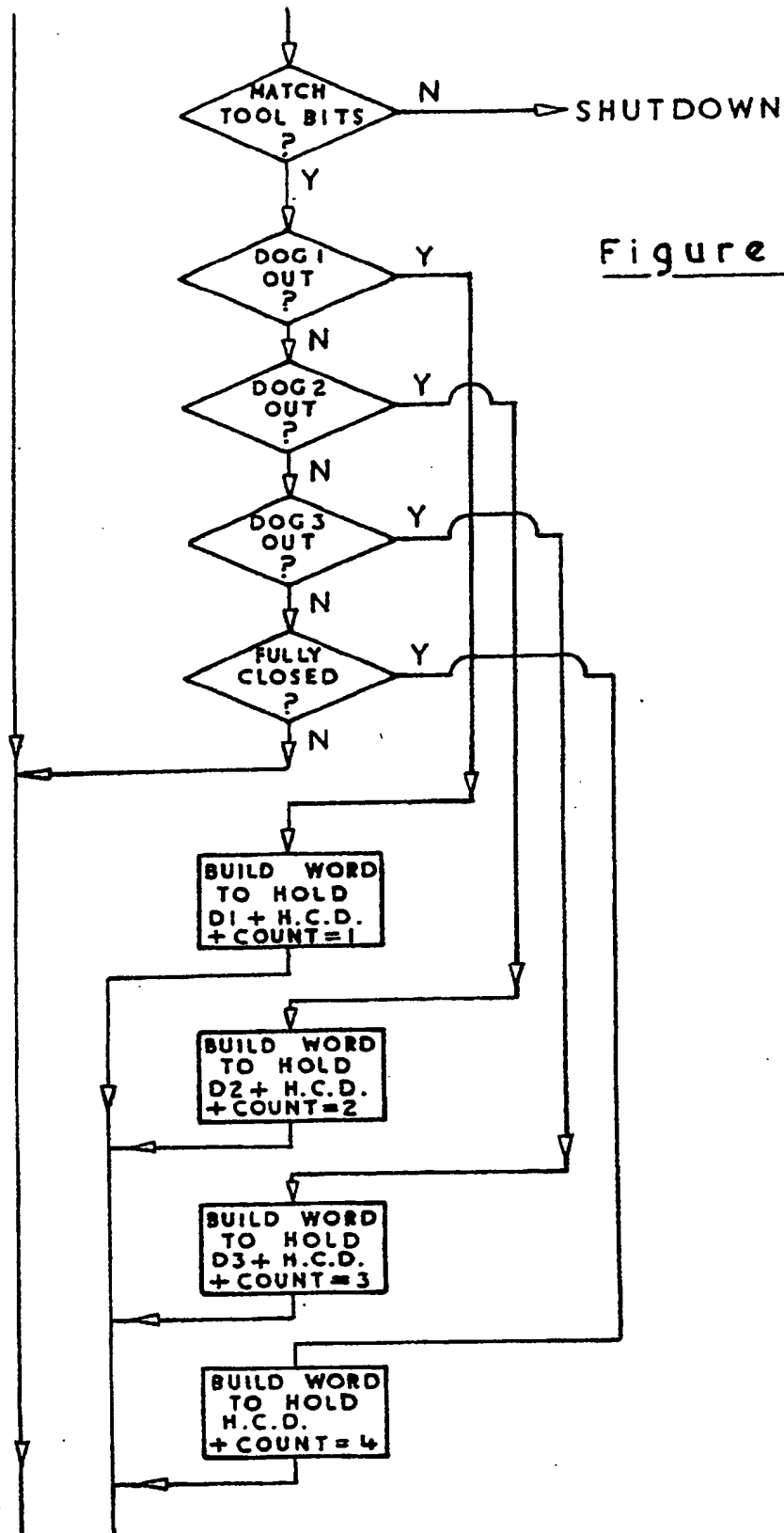
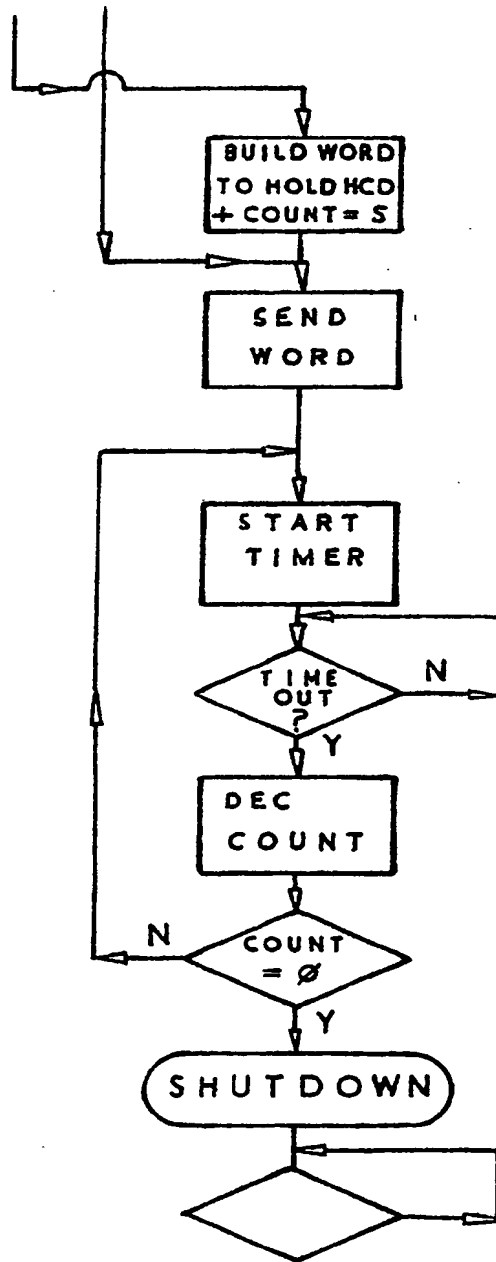


Figure 17

Figure 18

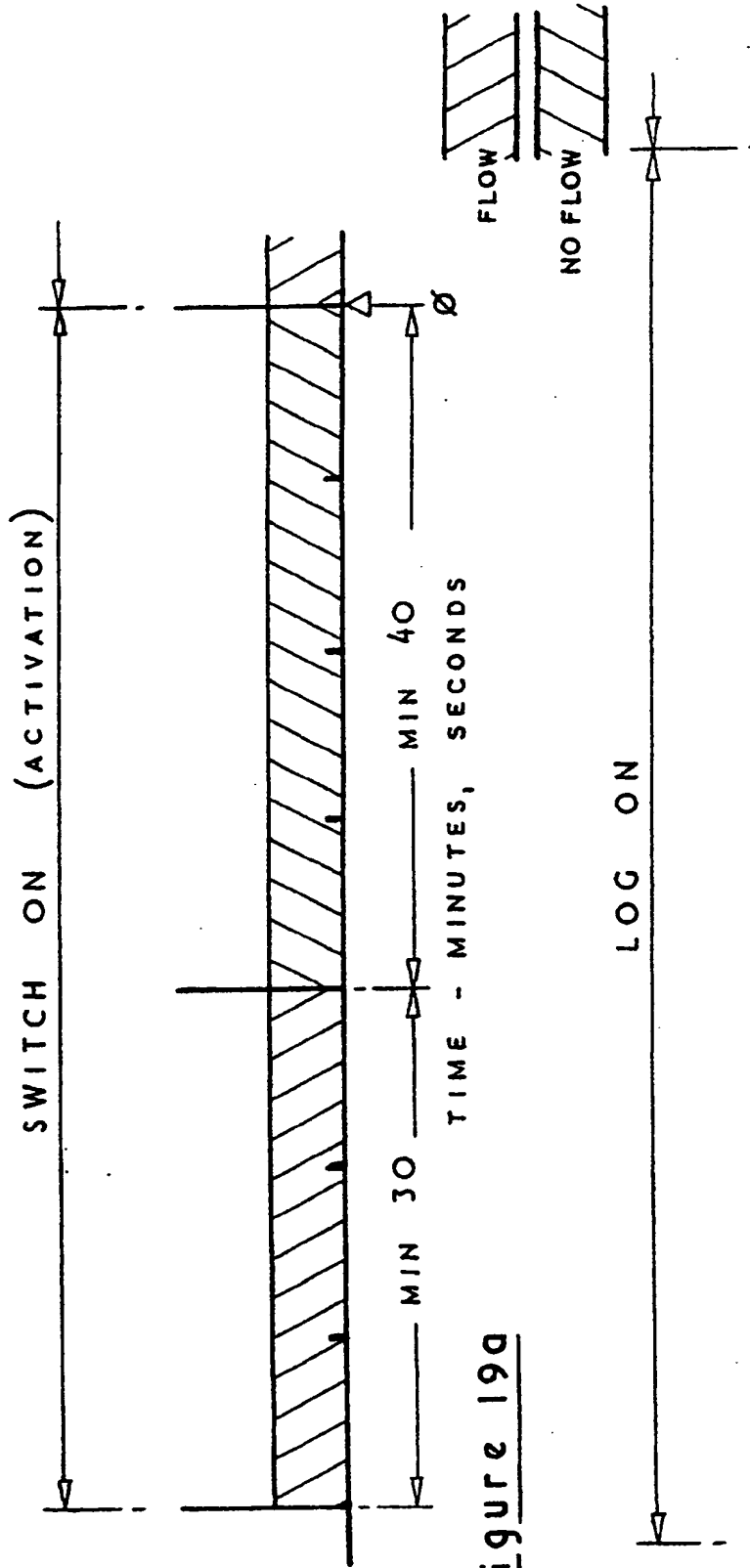


Figure 19a

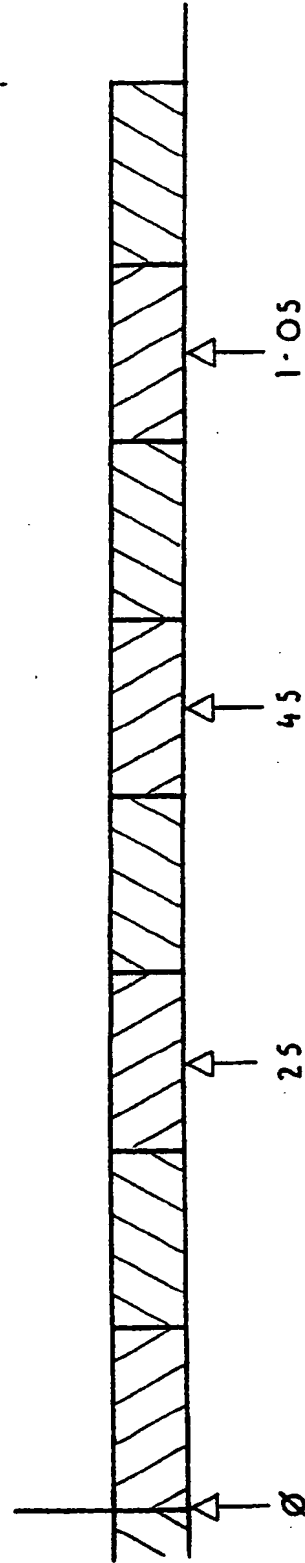


Figure 19b

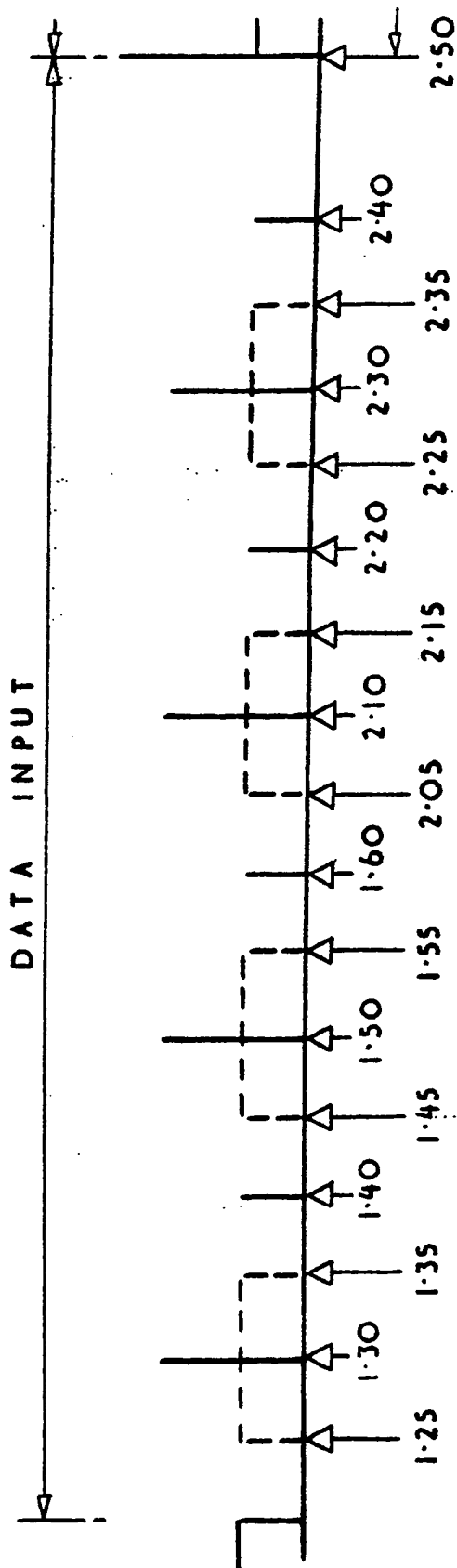


Figure 19c

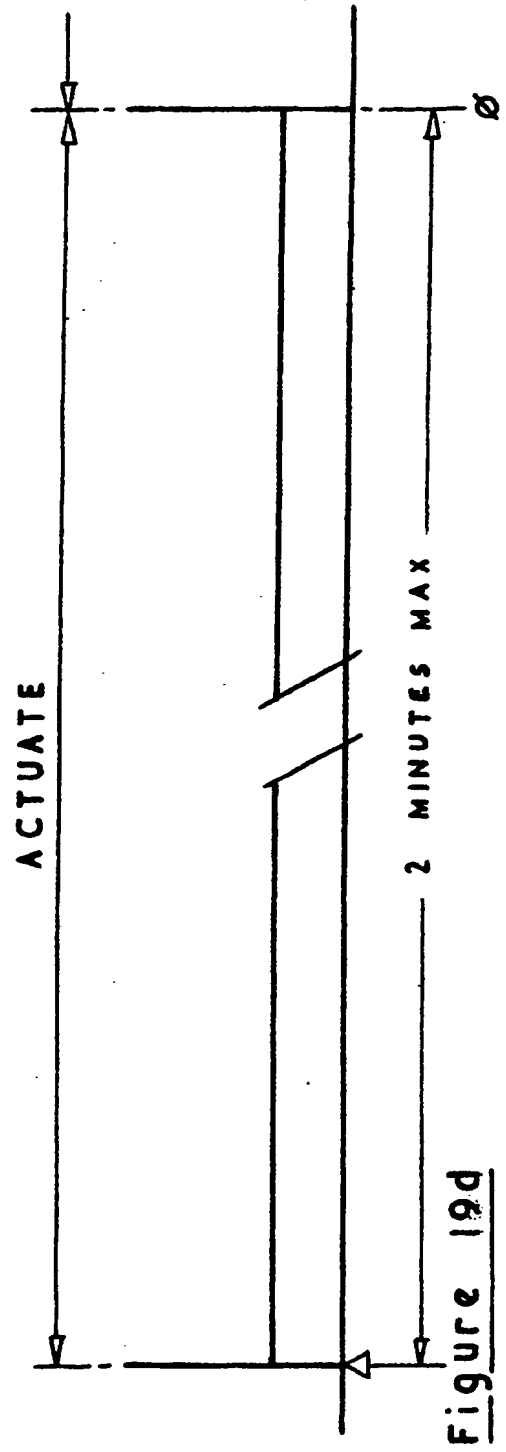


Figure 19d

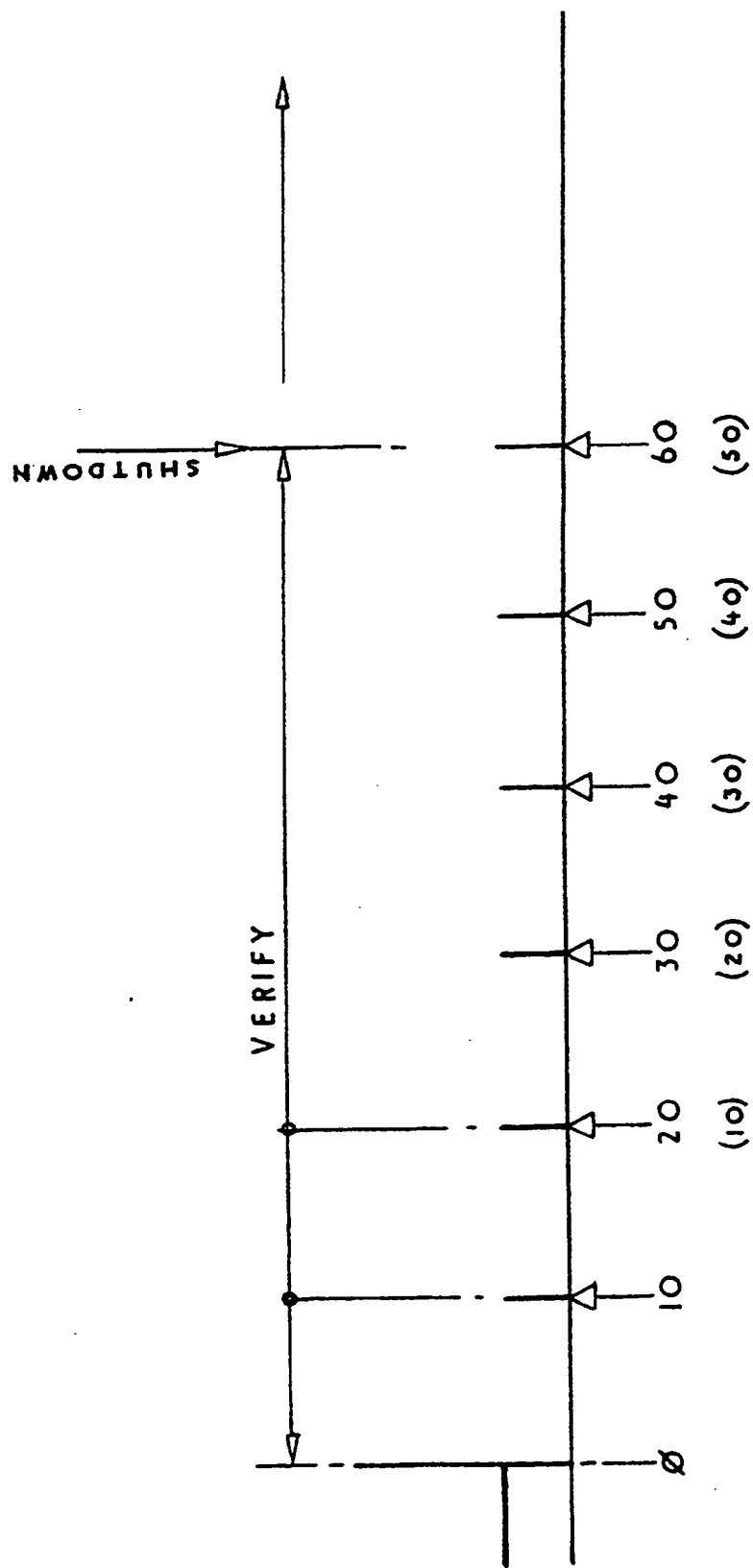


Figure 19e

```

1      ;*** STABILIZER COMMS V3.0***
2      ;** WITH VARIFICATION *****
3      ;** AND SHUTDOWN AT DATA ****
4      ;***
5      ;***
6      ;*
7      ;***
8      ;*****
9      PORTA1: EQU 0
10     PORTB1: EQU 1
11     PORTA2: EQU 2
12     PORTB2: EQU 3
13     ORG 0
14     LOAD 8000H
15     0000 3EFF
16     0002 3D
17     0003 20FD
18     0005 110000
19     0008 310020
20     000B 0E02
21     000D 3E00
22     000F ED79
23     0011 3EFF
24     0013 ED79
25     0015 3E3F
26     0017 ED79
27     0019 3E07
28     001B ED79
29     001D 3E80
30     001F D300
31     0021 0E03
32     0023 3E00
33     0025 ED79
34     0027 3EFF
35     0029 ED79
36     002B 3E07
37     002D ED79
38     002F ED79
39     0031 0E01
40     0033 3EFF
41     0035 ED79
42     0037 ED78
43     0039 CB57
44     003B 20FA
45     003D 3E00
46     003F D300
47
48     0041 ED78
49     0043 CB47
50     0045 20FA
51     0047 ED78
52     0049 E6F7
53     004B ED79
54     004D F608
55     004F ED79
56     0051 ED78
57     0053 CB57
58     0055 20FA
59     0057 ED78
60     0059 CB47

SLOOP:
        LD A,255
        JR NZ,SLOOP
        LD DE,0
        LD SP,2000H
        LD C,PORTA2
        LD A,0
        OUT (C),A
        LD A,255
        OUT (C),A
        LD A,3FH
        OUT (C),A
        LD A,07
        OUT (C),A
        LD A,80H
        OUT (PORTA1),A
        LD C,PORTB2
        LD A,0
        OUT (C),A
        LD A,255
        OUT (C),A
        LD A,07
        OUT (C),A
        OUT (C),A
        LD C,PORTB1
        LD A,255
        OUT (C),A
        IN A,(C)
        BIT 2,A
        JR NZ,CLPLS
        LD A,0
        OUT (PORTA1),A

CLPLS:
        IN A,(C)
        BIT 0,A
        JR NZ,START
        IN A,(C)
        AND 0F7H
        OUT (C),A
        OR B
        OUT (C),A

CLOCK1:
        IN A,(C)
        BIT 2,A
        JR NZ,CLOCK1
        IN A,(C)
        BIT 0,A

```

FIG. 20A

```

61 005B CAD501      JP      Z, SHUTDOWN
62                  ;*** STAGE TWO *****
63 005E 0603          LD      B, 3
64 0060 ED78          STG2:   IN      A, (C)
65 0062 E6F7          AND     OF7H
66 0064 ED79          OUT     (C), A
67 0066 F608          OR      B
68 0068 ED79          OUT     (C), A
69 006A ED78          TRIG1:  IN      A, (C)
70 006C CB47          BIT     0, A
71 006E CAD501        JP      Z, SHUTDOWN
72 0071 ED78          IN      A, (C)
73 0073 CB57          BIT     2, A
74 0075 20F3          JR      NZ, TRIG1
75 0077 ED78          IN      A, (C)
76 0079 E6F7          AND     OF7H
77 007B ED79          OUT     (C), A
78 007D F608          OR      B
79 007F ED79          OUT     (C), A
80 0081 ED78          STG22:  IN      A, (C)
81 0083 CB57          BIT     2, A
82 0085 CAD501        JP      Z, SHUTDOWN
83 0088 ED78          IN      A, (C)
84 008A CB47          BIT     0, A
85 008C 20F3          JR      NZ, STG22
86 008E ED78          CLPLS2: IN      A, (C)
87 0090 CB57          BIT     2, A
88 0092 20FA          JR      NZ, CLPLS2
89 0094 ED78          IN      A, (C)
90 0096 CB47          BIT     0, A
91 0098 CAD501        JP      Z, SHUTDOWN
92 009B 05            DEC     B
93 009C C26000        JP      NZ, STG2
94                  ;*** STAGE THREE *****
95 009F 0604          LD      B, 4
96 00A1 ED78          DATAIN: IN      A, (C)
97 00A3 E6F7          AND     OF7H
98 00A5 ED79          OUT     (C), A
99 00A7 F608          OR      B
100 00A9 ED79          OUT     (C), A
101 00AB ED78          TOUT1:  IN      A, (C)
102 00AD CB57          BIT     2, A
103 00AF 20FA          JR      NZ, TOUT1
104 00B1 ED78          IN      A, (C)
105 00B3 CB47          BIT     0, A
106 00B5 CAD501        JP      Z, SHUTDOWN
107 00B8 E6F7          AND     OF7H
108 00BA ED79          OUT     (C), A
109 00BC F608          OR      B
110 00BE ED79          OUT     (C), A
111 00C0 ED78          TOUT2:  IN      A, (C)
112 00C2 CB57          BIT     2, A
113 00C4 20FA          JR      NZ, TOUT2
114 00C6 ED78          IN      A, (C)
115 00C8 E601          AND     1
116 00CA 1F           RRA
117 00CB 3F           CCF
118 00CC CB12          RL      D
119 00CE 05           DEC     B
120 00CF 20D0          JR      NZ, DATAIN

```

FIG. 20B

121	00D1	ED78		IN	A, (C)
122	00D3	E6F7		AND	OF7H
123	00D5	ED79		OUT	(C), A
124	00D7	F608		OR	B
125	00D9	ED79		OUT	(C), A
126	00DB	ED78	TOUT3:	IN	A, (C)
127	00DD	CB57		BIT	2, A
128	00DF	20FA		JR	NZ, TOUT3
129	00E1	ED78		IN	A, (C)
130	00E3	CB47		BIT	0, A
131	00E5	CAD501		JP	Z, SHUTDOWN
132	00E8	E6F7		AND	OF7H
133	00EA	ED79		OUT	(C), A
134	00EC	F608		OR	B
135	00EE	ED79		OUT	(C), A
136	00F0	ED78	TOUT4:	IN	A, (C)
137	00F2	CB47		BIT	0, A
138	00F4	CAD501		JP	Z, SHUTDOWN
139	00F7	CB57		BIT	2, A
140	00F9	20F5		JR	NZ, TOUT4
141			;*** STAGE FOUR *****		
142	00FB	5A		LD	E, D
143	00FC	7A		LD	A, D
144	00FD	E603		AND	3
145	00FF	57		LD	D, A
146	0100	CB3B		SRL	E
147	0102	CB3B		SRL	E
148	0104	3E00		LD	A, 0
149	0106	BB		CP	E
150	0107	CA7B01		JP	Z, VARIFY
151	010A	DB00		IN	A, (PORTA1)
152	010C	CB3F		SRL	A
153	010E	CB3F		SRL	A
154	0110	CB3F		SRL	A
155	0112	CB3F		SRL	A
156	0114	E603		AND	3
157	0116	BB		CP	E
158	0117	C2D501		JP	NZ, SHUTDOWN
159	011A	3EEF		LD	A, OEFH
160	011C	ED79		OUT	(C), A
161	011E	7A		LD	A, D
162					
163	011F	FE00		CP	0
164	0121	2004		JR	NZ, NEXT1
165	0123	16EF		LD	D, OEFH
166	0125	1812		JR	READY
167	0127	FE01	NEXT1:	CP	1
168	0129	2004		JR	NZ, NEXT2
169	012B	166F		LD	D, 6FH
170	012D	180A		JR	READY
171	012F	FE02	NEXT2:	CP	2
172	0131	2004		JR	NZ, NEXT3
173	0133	16AF		LD	D, OAFH
174	0135	1802		JR	READY
175	0137	16CF	NEXT3:	LD	D, OCFH
176	0139	060C	READY:	LD	B, 12
177	013B	ED78	MLOOP:	IN	A, (C)
178	013D	E6F7		AND	OF7H
179	013F	ED79		OUT	(C), A
180	0141	F608		OR	B

Fig. 20C

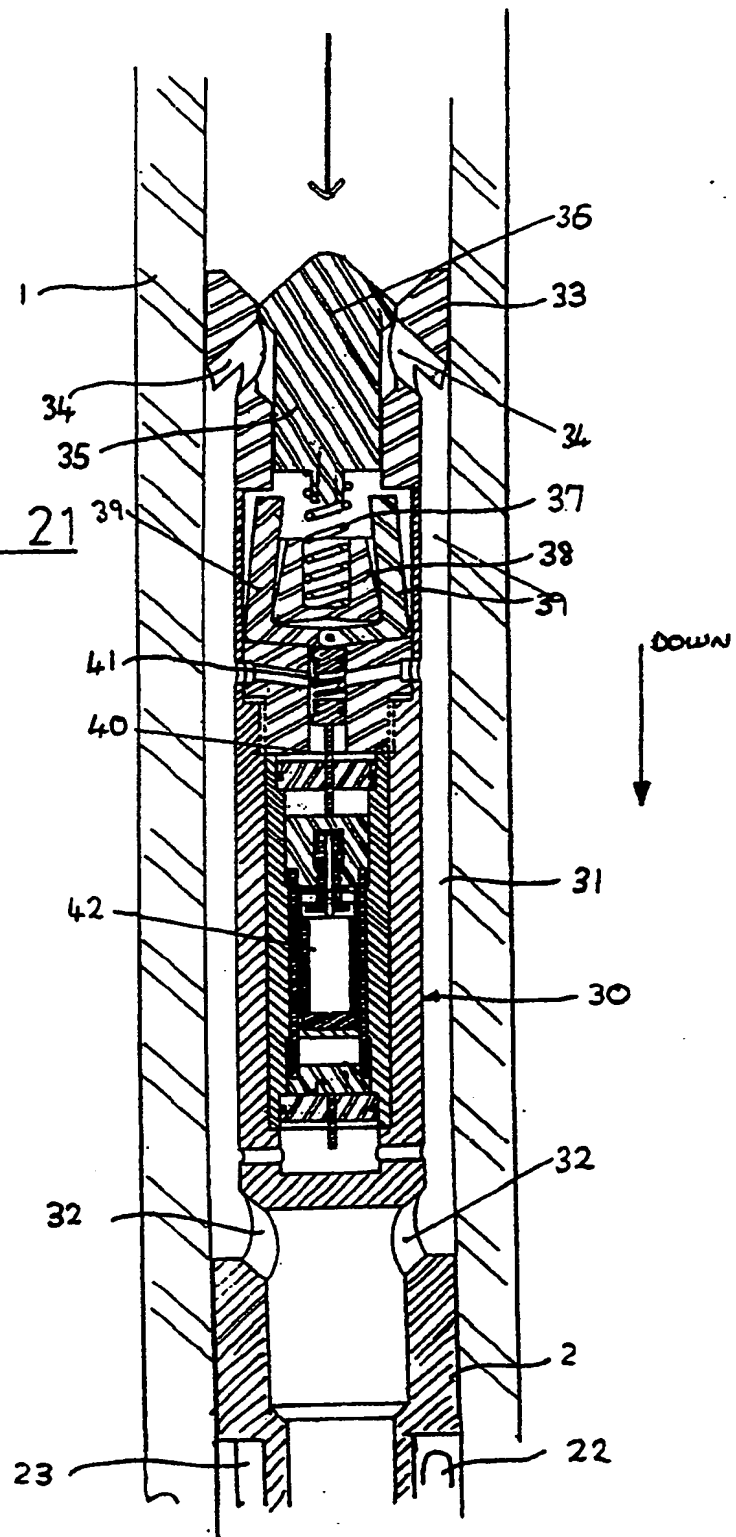
181 0143 ED79		OUT	(C),A
182 0145 ED78	TOUT5:	IN	A,(C)
183 0147 CB57		BIT	2,A
184 0149 2826		JR	Z,DECRE
185 014B ED78		IN	A,(C)
186 014D CB4F		BIT	1,A
187 014F 20F4		JR	NZ,TOUT5
188 0151 7A		LD	A,D
189 0152 ED51		OUT	(C),D
190 0154 ED78	WAIT:	IN	A,(C)
191 0156 CB57		BIT	2,A
192 0158 20FA		JR	NZ,WAIT
193 015A ED78	HOLD:	IN	A,(C)
194 015C E6F7		AND	0F7H
195 015E ED79		OUT	(C),A
196 0160 F608		OR	B
197 0162 ED79		OUT	(C),A
198 0164 ED78	HOLDLP:	IN	A,(C)
199 0166 CB57		BIT	2,A
200 0168 20FA		JR	NZ,HOLDLP
201 016A 3EEF		LD	A,0EFH
202 016C ED79		OUT	(C),A
203 016E C38C01		JP	VARIFY2
204 0171 05	DECRB:	DEC	B
205 0172 C23B01		JP	NZ,MLOOP
206 0175 C38C01		JP	ERROR
207 0178 DB00	VARIFY:	IN	A,(PORTA1)
208 017A CB3F		SRL	A
209 017C CB3F		SRL	A
210 017E CB3F		SRL	A
211 0180 CB3F		SRL	A
212 0182 E603		AND	3
213 0184 BA		CP	D
214 0185 C2D501		JP	NZ,SHUTDOWN
215 0188 3EEF		LD	A,0EFH
216 018A ED79		OUT	(C),A
217 018C DB00	VARIFY2:	IN	A,(PORTA1)
218 018E CB47		BIT	0,A
219 0190 280E		JR	Z,POS1
220 0192 CB4F		BIT	1,A
221 0194 2812		JR	Z,POS2
222 0196 CB57		BIT	2,A
223 0198 2816		JR	Z,POS3
224 019A CB5F		BIT	3,A
225 019C 281A		JR	Z,POS4
226 019E 181C		JR	ERROR
227 01A0 0601	POS1:	LD	B,1
228 01A2 3E6F		LD	A,6FH
229 01A4 ED79		OUT	(C),A
230 01A6 1816		JR	VWAIT
231 01A8 0602	POS2:	LD	B,2
232 01AA 3EAF		LD	A,0AFH
233 01AC ED79		OUT	(C),A
234 01AE 180E		JR	VWAIT
235 01B0 0603	POS3:	LD	B,3
236 01B2 3ECF		LD	A,0CFH
237 01B4 ED79		OUT	(C),A
238 01B6 1806		JR	VWAIT
239 01B8 0604	POS4:	LD	B,4
240 01BA 1802		JR	VWAIT

FIG. 20D.

241 01BC 0605	ERROR:	LD	B,5
242 01BE ED78	VWAIT:	IN	A,(C)
243 01C0 E6F7		AND	0F7H
244 01C2 ED79		OUT	(C),A
245 01C4 F608		OR	B
246 01C6 ED79		OUT	(C),A
247 01C8 ED78	VCLK:	IN	A,(C)
248 01CA CB57		BIT	2,A
249 01CC 20FA		JR	NZ,VCLK
250 01CE 05		DEC	B
251 01CF 20ED		JR	NZ,VWAIT
252 01D1 3EFF		LD	A,255
253 01D3 ED79		OUT	(C),A
254 01D5 0E00	SHUTDOWN:	LD	C,PORTA1
255 01D7 3E80		LD	A,80H
256 01D9 ED79		OUT	(C),A
257 01DB 00	STOP:	NOP	
258 01DC C3DB01		JP	STOP
259		END	

FIG. 20E

Figure 21





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	US-A-3 780 809 (AYERS) * Abstract *	1-3,7, 11,12	E 21 B 41/00 E 21 B 7/06
X	WO-A-8 803 222 (PETRO-DESIGN) * Abstract *	1,2,7, 11,12	E 21 B 17/10 E 21 B 47/12
X	US-A-3 967 680 (JETER) * Column 2, lines 51-57; column 3, lines 7-9 *	1,2,7, 11,12	
X	US-A-4 796 699 (UPCHURCH) * Abstract *	1,3,7, 11	
X	DE-U-8 633 905 (SALZGITTER MASCHINENBAU GmbH) * Whole document *	1,7	
A	US-A-4 065 747 (PATTEN) * Whole document *	1-3,7, 11,12	
E	EP-A-0 377 378 (I.F.P.) * Abstract *	1-3,7, 11,12	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
E	GB-A-2 223 251 (BASE) * Whole document *	1-3,7- 12	E 21 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 03-12-1990	Examiner SOGNO M.G.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

☐

All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐

Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid.

namely claims:

☐

No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

x

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See sheet -B-

☐

All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

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namely claims:

☒

None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.

namely claims:

1-3, 7-12



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions,

namely:

1. Claims 1-3,7-12: Method and apparatus for transmitting instructions to a down-hole implement.
2. Claims 4-6: Stabilizer with extending pads.

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